

REMARKS

The examiner considers the application to contain two inventions or groups of inventions (Groups I and II) which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and requires election of a single group to which the claims are to be restricted.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1 and 23-67, drawn to fusion protein immunogens and compositions thereof with traverse. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed on the basis of the second paragraph of MPEP §803 which requires that there be a "serious burden" in order to make a restriction requirement, even if the requirement is otherwise correct. Here, the search for Group II, which is drawn to methods of using the fusion protein immunogens to produce antibodies, is believed to be encompassed by a search for the fusion protein immunogens themselves. Accordingly, there is no "serious burden" to examine both Groups I and II.

It is also understood that, even if the restriction requirement is maintained, upon allowance of a product claim, nonelected process claims which depend from the allowable product claim or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim would be rejoined under rejoinder practice pursuant to MPEP §821.04.

Appln. No. 10/553,694
Response dated April 10, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 27, 2004

The examiner has also required an election of a single species from A and a single species from B. Applicants elect without traverse the species of chaperonin from A (folding factors) and the species of serotonin receptor 5-HT1aR from B (antigen protein). Applicants identify claims 31 and 32 as the claims readable on both the elected species.

It is understood that, upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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